Statement

No. of Kutir Jyoti Connections released during past three years in Bihar.

Sl. No.	District	NO. OF CONNECTIONS RELEASED		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	Patna	549	1939	—
2.	Gaya	291	276	379
3.	Jahanabad	—	300	—
4.	Nawadah	410	150	—
5.	Aurangabad	300	195	500
6.	Bhojpur	755	2406	2095
7.	Buxar	675	1603	1171
8.	Rohtas	1000	2084	1615
9.	Bhabhua	115	270	600
10.	Palamau	409	1811	905
11.	Gadhwa		952	37
12.	Singhbhum (E)		400	583
13.	Singhbhum (W)	1360	4367	2000
14.	Hazaribagh		400	267
15.	Chatra		—	403
16.	Bhagalpur		1429	657
17.	Banka		388	368
18.	Deoghar		726	648
19.	Dumka	80	389	1299
20.	Godda		759	—
21.	Sahebganj		976	1405
22.	Pokur		—	358
23.	Kodarma		—	320
	TOTAL	5944	21820	15410

Under payment by Oil India Ltd.

2140. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention had been drawn to the report which appeared in the 'Telegraph' dated the 29th October, 1996 regarding alleged undue payment of Rs. 70 crores to a private party by Oil India Ltd. for drilling of well in Saurashtra and Mahanadi basin, if so Government's reaction thereto;

(b) the targeted depth of drilling in four wells and the actual depth of drilling carried out in each case;

(c) whether conclusive tests as per the contract were carried out to establish the prospectivity of the areas; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) Yes, Sir. The payments made by Oil India Ltd. in respect of mobilisation charges and part of the jobs completed for the three Saurashtra wells is Rs. 52.92 crores and no advance payment of Rs. 70 crores has been made to the contractor. The contract has been terminated on 12.10.96 and performance guarantee invoked. However, the contractor has obtained an injunction from the Court and the decision of the Court is awaited.

(b) The targeted depth and actual depth of drilling is indicated below:—

Well No.	Target	Actual
SEP-1	3100 M	3025 M
SEP-2	2800 M	3000 M
SEP-3	1600 M	1458 M
NEC	5000 M	—

(c) and (d) Four Zones in SEP-1 well and two Zones in SEP-2 well were tested. SEP-1 well produced formation water with minor indication of hydrocarbon gas in one Zone and hydrogen sulphide in two Zones. The two Zones in SEP-2 well produced formation water. The SEP-3 well was not tested due to non availability of hydrocarbon prospects.

Financial assistance to States for Rural Electrification

2141. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the detalis of financial assistance provided to Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra for rural electrification during the last three years, with a view to utilise ground water resources through

energisation of pumpsets for increasing agricultural production;

(b) the number of villages covered under this programme and the number of pumpsets energised as a result thereof; and

(c) the assistance proposed to be given to those States during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) Financial assistance provided to Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra through Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) for rural electrification works including village electrification, load intensification in already electrified villages, pumpset energisation, System Improvement etc., and also the number of pumpsets energised & villeges electrified during the three years from 1993-94 to 1995-96 are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Financial Assistance provided (Rs. in Crores)	Pumpsets energised	Villages electrified
1.	Andhra Pradesh	340.43	2,16,372	*
2.	Bihar	8.77	4,265	287
3.	Maharashtra	246.76	2,34,610	*

*Already 100% electrified State.

(c) The financial assistance proposed to be provided to these States during the current financial year for rural electrification works through the Rural Electrification Corporation are given below:

S.No.	Name of the State	Financial assistance (Rs. in crores)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	51.50
2.	Bihar	18.96
3.	Maharashtra	67.00

Consultation with State Governments on petroleum price hike

2142. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Governments are being consulted on the periodic hikes in petroleum prices;

(b) whether it is a fact that an element of arbitrariness has crept in while fixing petroleum prices; and

(c) what steps Governments are taking or propose to take to obtain wider public opinion for fixing of petrol and diesel prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) to (c) The price of petroleum products are administered by Government and are fixed taking into account various factors like production cost, growth in demand and socio-economic conditions.